

- (vi) Noise standards for industrial zones have been notified.
- (vii) Fiscal incentives are being provided to industries for the installation of pollution control equipment and also for the shifting of polluting industries away from congested areas.
- (viii) Customs and Excise duty exemptions are being provided to the industries for installation of pollution control/monitoring equipment.
- (ix) Under an ongoing scheme assistance is being provided to clusters of small scale industrial units for setting up common effluent treatment plants

Bridge from Mahim to Nariman Point

671 SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVIN CHANDRA MEHTA Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

- (a) whether there is a proposal for construction of Railway bridge from Mahim to Nariman Point
- (b) if so, the funds allocated for the project and
- (c) the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Provision of Funds to Seeds Corporation of India

672 SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

- (a) the amount provided by the Union Government to the Seeds Corporation of India during the last five years and the purpose for which the said amount was provided
- (b) whether the desired purpose have been fulfilled.
- (c) if not the reasons therefor and
- (d) the time by which the remaining work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Hon'ble Member may kindly clarify whether he is referring to National Seeds Corporation or State Farms Corporation of India

(b) to (d) In view of the position explained above, the question does not arise

Indo-Tibetan Border Police Mountaineers

673 SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a team of Indo-Tibetan Border Police mountaineers had successfully scaled the highest peak of the world, the Mount Everest recently.

(b) whether they died while descending from the peak:

(c) if so, whether any investigation has been conducted to ascertain the reasons for their death, and

(d) if so, the outcome of the investigation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. Seven members of ITBP Mountaineers successfully scaled the Mount Everest—three on 10th May, 1996 and four on 17th May, 1996

(b) Three summits of 10th May, 1996 died while descending from the peak

(c) and (d) Investigations made have revealed that these summits while descending from the summit were trapped in a furious blizzard. A Court of Inquiry has been ordered and is in progress.

[English]

Quality of Food in Trains

674. SHRI R L P VERMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the quality of the food supplied to the railway passengers in trains and tea and snacks in the restaurants run by the Railway Catering Department is very poor and the passengers are being fleeced by the Catering Department.

(b) if so, the number of complaints received in this regard during last three years, year-wise and the action taken thereon

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to improve the quality of food, tea and snacks served in the trains, and the platforms by the vendors canteens restaurants.

(d) whether inferior quality biscuits are being sold served by the Railways and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken to ensure supply of good quality biscuits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. While Railways exercise due care to provide good quality service to passengers, complaints which arise from time to time are attended to promptly and remedial

measures taken to redress the grievances including preventive measures and deterrent action against the persons at fault

Year	No. of complaints	No. of cases where action taken
1993-94	361	322
1994-95	351	323
1995-96	308	268

(c) Improvement in catering service is an on-going and continuous process. Steps include supply of meals in Casseroles; supply of ready to eat fast food items at stations and on trains; installation of Vending Machines to sell hot and cold beverages; under-taking food sample checks by the Medical Deptt. for lab tests to prevent food adulteration etc. training of catering staff at recognised institutions and frequent inspections by officers/staff

(d) and (e). Biscuits manufactured by reputed firms are procured for sale by the Catering Department. Intensive checks are conducted to ensure sale of quality biscuits.

[Translation]

Nasik-Peth-Balsad Line

675. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any demand to lay Nasik-Peth-Balsad railway line; and

(b) if so, the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) Yes Sir

(b) It has not been found possible to consider construction of this line at this stage due to acute constraint of resources

[English]

Train Accidents

676. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA
SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN
SHRI SOHAN BEEH

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the number of train accidents and derailments occurred during last six months till date in each zone;

(b) the main causes of those accidents and derailments;

(c) the number of persons killed and injured therein with the loss of property suffered by the Railways;

(d) the details of compensation provided or to be provided to the victims; and

(e) the remedial steps being taken by the Government to avoid such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) The Zone-wise number of train accidents and derailments during the period 1.1 1996 to 30.6 1996 is as under

Railway	No. of Accidents	No. of derailments
Central	23	17
Eastern	20	14
Northern	29	17
North Eastern	12	06
Northeast Frontier	18	16
Southern	26	20
South Central	27	14
South Eastern	39	33
Western	28	18
Total	222	155

*Provisional

(b) The main causes of the accidents including derailments, were human failure, equipment failure, sabotage, etc

(c) 226 persons lost their lives and 300 sustained injury in the above accidents. This includes 141 killed and 143 injured in level crossing accidents. The approximate cost of damage to Railway property is Rs 33.81 Crores

(d) No compensation has so far been paid. Compensation will be paid soon after the claims are decreed by the concerned Bench of Railway Claims Tribunal

(e) Steps taken to check the accidents are as under

1. The work of track circuiting has been accelerated on the trunk routes and important main lines
2. Signalling circuitry is being changed to prevent home signal being lowered till the starter and the advance starter lowered for an earlier train have been put back to 'ON' position.